

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SOCIETY DAY



ICT OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL



GOVERNMENT WILL MEET INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

I am pleased to send this message on the occasion of World Telecommunication & Information Society Day 2008

The theme for activities related to this important day which is "Connecting Persons with Disabilities: ICT Opportunities for All", addresses issues that are timely about which the state bears a great responsibility. This is a reminder that disabled persons remain valuable

citizens and require every facility that society could extend to them.

I am glad to note the unprecedented growth in the telecommunication sector in our country increasing connectivity among people of all social strata. Significant achievements have been made in taking ICT to the rural areas mainly through the "Nenasala" and "Vidatha" programmes successfully launched under the Mahinda Chinthanaya. The

government is also taking important steps through the Telecommunication Regulatory Commission to meet the broadband requirements of the country, which is vital for the development of ICT.

The action being taken to provide special ICT equipment to schools for disabled persons under the project carried out jointly by the International Telecommunication Union and the Telecommunications

Regulatory Commission to help the recipients participate better in the activities of society is commendable.

I thank the International Telecommunication Union for its continued assistance towards the development of the Telecommunication Industry in Sri Lanka.

Mahinda Rajapaksa
President of Sri Lanka



EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES A MUST IN THE DIGITAL AGE

It is my pleasure to send this message to the special supplement for World Telecommunication and Information Society Day which is celebrated each year on the 17th of May. It marks the anniversary of the founding of the International Telecommunication Union which is the oldest of the intergovernmental organizations that have become specialized agencies related to the United Nations.

The theme for this year is "Connecting Persons with Disabilities: ICT Opportunities for All". The Key to the information society is universal access. It is our duty to extend the opportunities created by information & communication technologies to those with disabilities as everyone must have an equal opportunity to participate in the digital age.

I am happy that the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka with the assistance of the International Telecommunication Union and the telecommunication operators have taken the initiative to address the needs of people with special needs.

I take this opportunity to wish the telecommunication industry all success and congratulate the International Telecommunication Union in their endeavour to recognize the needs of special persons.

Mahinda Wijesekera
Minister of Posts and Telecommunication



PREREQUISITE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

On the occasion of the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, which falls on 17th May 2008, in my capacity as Deputy Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, I would like to extend my greeting and good wishes.

Telecommunications is a facility and a vital prerequisite to achieve economic development and social progress. It has also become the most convenient and widely used means for mutual contact, and exchange of information.

I deeply appreciate that the International Telecommunication Union and Telecommunications Regulatory Commission are distributing information & communication technology (ICT) equipment to Schools and Vocational Training Institutions for persons with special needs.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to all those who have encouraged, assisted and contributed towards the development and growth of the Telecommunications sector.

M.S. Sellasamy
Deputy Minister of Posts and Telecommunication



EMPOWERING CITIZENS WITH INFORMATION & KNOWLEDGE

Today we celebrate World Telecommunication and Information Society Day marking the 143th anniversary of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). We are proud to be a member of the ITU which has a total of 191 member states.

The focus this year is on meeting the Information and Communication Technology needs of persons with special needs. The effective channeling of information and communication technologies is aimed at empowering every citizen with information and knowledge, improving communication facilities in rural areas and providing access to special groups, which will in turn contribute to greater productivity and social upliftment.

As Chairman of the Telecommunication Regulatory Commission it gives me great pleasure to be associated with this event where much needed equipment will be provided to persons with special needs under a grant from the International Telecommunication Union and funds provided by the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka.

We hope to develop and expand this project and I wish to thank the International Telecommunication Union, Telecommunications Regulatory Commission and the telecommunication operators and all those who contributed to this effort.

Lalith Weeratunga
Secretary to the President
Chairman of the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka



COMMITMENT FOR ICT DEVELOPMENT IN SRI LANKA

Today we celebrate the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day which is aptly themed "Connecting Persons with Disabilities: ICT Opportunities for All". The day marks the establishment of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) as an organization of the United Nation system. Sri Lanka is a member state of ITU.

In line with the theme of the World Telecommunication Day the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka (TRCSL) has jointly with the ITU taken steps to provide ICT equipment such as Braille printers, computers, multi-media projectors and fm systems to schools and vocational institutions assisting persons with special needs.

TRCSL is committed to enable speedy ICT priority development in Sri Lanka.

Priyantha Kariyapperuma
Director General
Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DAY

World Telecommunication Day has been celebrated annually on 17 May since 1969, marking the founding of ITU and the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention in 1865. It was instituted by the Plenipotentiary Conference in Malaga-Torremolinos in 1973.

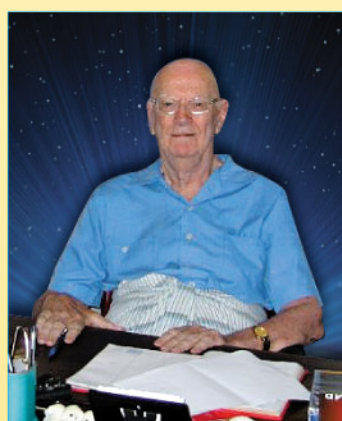
WORLD INFORMATION SOCIETY DAY

In November 2005, the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) called upon the UN General Assembly to declare 17 May as World Information Society Day to focus on the importance of ICT and the wide range of issues related to the Information Society raised by WSIS. The General Assembly adopted a resolution in March 2006 stipulating that World Information Society Day shall be celebrated every year on 17 May.

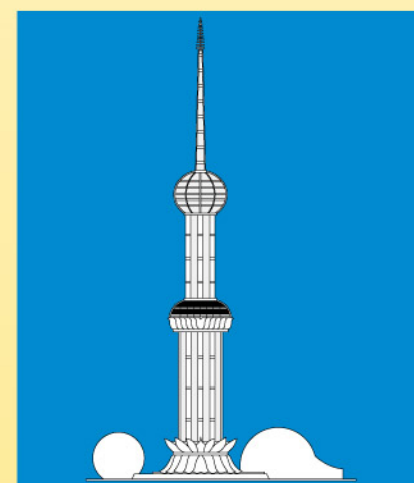
OUR FUTURE PLANS



Nation wide fibre optical backbone network to meet broadband requirements of the country.



To launch a satellite in honour of the world renowned space scientist the late Sir Arthur C. Clarke



Develop / Establish a Tower Building as a national icon to serve infrastructure requirement of the communication industry.

To be at the forefront of telecommunications regulation

TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY COMMISSION OF SRI LANKA

No. 276, Elvitigala Mawatha Colombo 8.
Tel: 2689345, 1900 Fax: 2689341
E-mail: dgtsl@trc.gov.lk Website: <http://www.trc.gov.lk>